

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of	)	MAIL STOP RCE
	)	
Hiroaki Sano et al.	)	Group Art Unit: 3726
	)	
Application No.: 10/525,972	)	Examiner: John C. Hong
	)	
Filing Date: February 28, 2005	)	Confirmation No.: 3183
	)	
Title: TUBE CONNECTING APPARATUS	)	
AND TUBE CONNECTING METHOD	)	

**REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

**MAIL STOP RCE**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Customer Number **21839**

Sir:

Applicant(s) requests continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application and encloses the ☐ \$405 ☒ \$810 fee due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e).

1. ☐ A. Applicant(s) requests that any previously unentered after final amendments not be entered. Continued examination is requested based on the enclosed documents identified in item 2 below.  
  
☐ B. Applicant(s) previously submitted the following documents for which continued examination is requested:  
  
☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_.  
  
☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The following documents are enclosed with this submission:  
  
☐ Amendment/Reply  
  
☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)  
  
☒ Information Disclosure Statement  
  
☐ Petition for Extension of Time
3. ☐ Small entity status is hereby claimed.

- ☒ No additional claim fee is required.
- ☒ The fee is calculated below on the basis of the highest number of claims already paid for in this application prior to this submission:

					FEES
Examination Fee (1801)					\$ 810
	No. of Claims	Highest No. of Claims Previously Paid For	Extra Claims	Rate	
Total Claims	21	21	0	x 52 (1202)	\$ 0
Independent Claims	2	3	0	x 220 (1201)	\$ 0
If multiple dependent claims are presented, add \$ 390					\$ 0
<b>Total Fee</b>					<b>\$ 810</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity Status claimed - subtract 50% of Total Application Fee					\$ 0
<b>TOTAL FEE DUE</b>					<b>\$ 810</b>

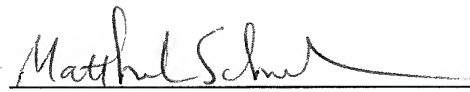
4. ☐ Charge \_\_\_\_\_ to Deposit Account No. **02-4800** for the fee due.
5. ☒ Charge \$ 810 to credit card for the fee due.
6. ☐ Applicant(s) requests suspension of action by the Office until at least \_\_\_\_\_, which does not exceed three months from the filing of this RCE, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c). The required fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) is enclosed.
7. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: August 13, 2009

By:

  
Matthew L. Schneider  
Registration No. 32814

**Customer No. 21839**  
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